

Finance Committee Meeting February 10th 2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:15PM. Present were Mr. Zukauskas, Mrs. Mielke, Mr. Imberman, Mr. Herrick, Mr. Dowling and Mrs. Spaulding. Guests included Ms. Tara White, and Mr. Michael Skorput. Minutes were read. Mr. Zukauskas 1st, Mr. Dowling 2nd unanimously accepted.

The Committee reviewed the **Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's** invoice requesting [\$949.96]. *"This is a bill for the assessment to the Town for its portion of the costs for the 12 month fiscal year beginning in July 1st, 2011. It is based upon the Commission's total assessment of \$85,810.13 yielding an annual per capita assessment of \$0.6359 multiplied by the most recent (2000) national census, in accordance with Section 7 of Chapter 40B of the General Laws. It is not subject to town meeting approval."* There is no account number on this item. It is informational material for the Finance Committee and Ms. Mielke stated that the expense usually comes out of the "recap" funds.

Household Hazardous Waste 70439.00 (\$1,800) now requesting [\$1,100] Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Dowling 2nd passed unanimously.

There was a request for transfer of \$1,709 from the Reserve Fund to the **Tax Title {Collector}** 10148.00. The present balance in that account is \$158. This request is to pay unanticipated advertising expenses, the charges of which were over double the normal charges! Mr. Zukauskas 1st, Mr. Dowling 2nd passed unanimously.

The tentative draft of the **Highway Budget** was then circulated. Some discussion took place. The inclusion of a 4% raise for the workers was discussed. There was a discussion as to where the "chip seal" would be used; there was an increase over last year's propane of \$3,000; it was noted that there was a sizable increase in the cost of 'calcium' or 'salt' : Ms. White stated upon questioning that the outside contractors were responsible for their insurance and workman's compensation. Further discussion is scheduled for the next Finance Committee Meeting.

The warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held on March 2nd 2011 at 7:00PM was circulated and the Finance Committee reviewed **Article 6** which asks for a vote of "disapproval". Ms. White stated that the selectmen requested that this article be phrased in this way so that the article could be presented at the full Town Meeting in May when more voters would have the opportunity to register their approval or disapproval (recommended by the Finance Committee) **Article 7** requests transfers of funds for the police chief salary be made (recommended by the Finance Committee). Both of these articles were approved for recommendation by the Finance Committee with Mr. Zukauskas 1st, Mr. Herrick 2nd unanimously accepted.

Mr. Imberman reported that he is reviewing the assessors' figures on land values. The Finance Committee recommends that he continues to pursue this further.

The review of the Town Hall Budget and Highway department budget will take place at the next meeting scheduled for February 17th at 7:00. Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.

Prudence Spaulding
February 12th 2011